

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 30, 2010**

Contact: Valerie Byrnes  
Barry County Chamber of Commerce and  
Barry County Economic Development Alliance  
269/945-2454  
[valerie@barrychamber.com](mailto:valerie@barrychamber.com)

*Anita Henderson, Pennock Health Services to serve as Chair of Chamber's HR Network*

**Hastings, MI** – The Barry County Chamber of Commerce kicked off a new Human Resource Network group in February providing a forum for peer-to-peer learning and professional development for Human Resource professionals and small business owners in Barry County. The group selected Anita Henderson, Director of Human Resources with Pennock Health Services to serve as the Chair of the HR Network during 2010.

The HR Network attracted a dozen participants from small owner-operated businesses to larger local employers with professional HR staff. “The HR Network can provide value to me as an employer to better understand HR issues, legalities and pitfalls as a non-HR professional,” said Tom Wiswell with Barry County Lumber. During the first session the group discussed the value of professional networking to stay on top of issues, topics and requirements necessary to be an effective employer. The group remains open to new participants and will continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month addressing new and pertinent topics of interest including legal and regulatory requirements, policy handbooks and share best practices. The meeting in March focused on Employee Satisfaction and Recognition with each participant bringing new ideas and programs to the table to share with others and including larger-scale employee celebrations to the personal acknowledgements for a job exceeding expectations.

The April meeting was held one week early due to Spring Break and focused on the tools and resources available to HR professionals through the Grand Rapids Employers Association as presented by Lynne Goede, Director of Membership Development. “I am impressed with the quality of the resources, many of them free of charge, that are available to HR professionals and business owners through [www.teagr.org](http://www.teagr.org) and believe the Employers Association will be a great asset to our group,” stated Valerie Byrnes, President of the Barry County Chamber of Commerce and facilitator of the HR Network.

The May HR Network meeting will be back to the original schedule on the second Thursday of the month, May 13 at 8 a.m. The topic for the program is Social Media for Business and will be lead by Andrew Powell, an owner with 2G TechWorks, Inc. If you would like to participate with the HR Network by attending the May meeting, please rsvp with the Chamber at [valerie@barrychamber.com](mailto:valerie@barrychamber.com) or by calling 269/945-2454.

#####